

The Great Fire.

LEADING NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF THE TERRIBLE

CHICAGO CONFLAGRATION,

INCLUDING

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF THE
FIRE, BY EYE-WITNESSES, CORRESPONDENTS,
ETC., HARROWING INCIDENTS,
HAIR-BREADTH ES-
CAPES, &c.

With a Correct Map.

FOR SALE BY ST. LOUIS BOOK AND NEWS CO.

PRICE, 20 CTS.



LAWRENCE J. GUTTER
Collection of Chicagoana

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT CHICAGO

The University Library

THE GREAT CHICAGO CONFLAGRATION.

THE FIRST NEWS.

[From the St. Louis Times, October 11th.]

What will doubtless prove the most destructive conflagration of modern times has been raging for two days and nights in our sister city of Chicago, laying waste alike the dwellings of the poor and the palaces of the rich, magnificent stores, with their millions of merchandise, hotels and public buildings, gas-works, depots and waterworks; everything, in fact, that lay in the broad swarth of the destroyer for miles. The city, which at the close of the week was bustling with prosperity and proud in its greatness, is now for the greater part a lurid waste. A hundred thousand are homeless, and thousands beside are beggared. It is the

GREATEST FIRE IN MODERN HISTORY.

Considering the magnitude of the interests involved, the wholesale devastation, the untold wretchedness that it has caused, the effect upon commercial interests and transportation that must follow, it may be set down as the greatest calamity of a similar character of which there is any record. We do not except even

THE GREAT FIRE IN LONDON.

for the aggregate losses will undoubtedly be greater now than then. If our later advices are correct that upwards of ten thousand buildings have been burned; it already approaches the London conflagration in magnitude, when but thirteen thousand houses were destroyed. Our fears are that it may even exceed it.

There seems to have been two distinctive fires, one occurring Saturday night of which notice was published in the Sunday morning papers, and which we were led to believe had been brought under the entire control of the department.

THE SATURDAY NIGHT FIRE.

The fire started in the large planing mill situated between Clinton and Canal and Van Buren and Jackson streets, about the center of the block formed by these streets. The wind was blowing very fresh and the flames spread with almost incredible rapidity, and in a few minutes the entire structure was a mass of fire. The immediate vicinity was built up mainly with small wooden tenement houses and two-story frame buildings, occupied as groceries, saloons, &c. The inmates of many of the houses, startled from slumber, had barely time to rush from the houses in the scanty attire of night, leaving their household goods to destruction. In several instances children were hastily wrapped in blankets and quilts to break the force of their fall, and thrown from the second story windows to the ground.

INDESCRIBABLE SCENES.

The scenes in the vicinity of the conflagration the brief telegraphic dispatch said were indescribable. Half the population of the city seems to have gathered there. Tugs in the river were engaged in towing to places of safety the vessels moored in the neighborhood, while locomotives were hastily pulling out the great number of cars standing on the track in the path of the flames.

The loss in property by this fire, which swept over about twenty blocks, has never been carefully estimated, being submerged by the overshadowing calamity of the following day.

THE SUNDAY NIGHT FIRE.

HOW THE FIRE ORIGINATED.

Late Sunday evening a boy went into a stable on De Koven street, (marked K. on the map,) near the river, on the west side, to milk a cow, carrying with him a kerosene lamp. This was kicked over by the cow, and the burning fluid scattered among the straw. This was the beginning of the great fire. A single

extinguisher on the ground, or active work of the police in tearing down one or two shanties, would have prevented the spreading of the flames; but the engines were waited for, and when they arrived the firemen, stupefied by exertion at the fire Saturday night, worked slowly and clumsily.

THEIR EFFORTS WERE UNAVAILING

The wind from the southwest blew a gale. Rapidly the flames shot from house to house and board yard to board yard, until the district burned the night before was reached. Meanwhile the flames crossed the river north of Twelfth street on to the South side, and made for a brick and stone business block, the railroad freight depots and manufacturing establishments. The full extent of the danger was then realized for the first time. The fire department, already fired, worked like heroes. The mayor and his city government, who had supinely rested, now began to exert themselves, but.

THE OPPORTUNITY HAD BEEN LOST.

The time when a thorough organization could have blown up buildings or prepared for the emergency was neglected. It was now a fight for life. A stiff gale had possession of the flames, and the beautiful buildings, Chicago's glory, lay before them. Harrison, VanBuren, Adams, Monroe and Madison were soon reached. The intervening blocks from the river to Dearborn street on the east were being consumed. Three quarters of a mile of brick blocks were consumed as if by magic.

THE FURIOUS INTENSITY OF THE FLAMES.

All that men could do was to blow up buildings, but this availed but little. The Times, Tribune, Post, Republican, Journal and other newspaper offices, Western News company's block, Field & Leiter's establishments, a brick block recently built, Farwell & Co. were soon in ashes. It seemed that no sooner had the flames struck a wall than they went directly through, and a very few minutes sufficed to destroy the most elaborately built structure. The walls melted and the bricks were consumed.

The wooden pavements took fire, making a continuous sheet of flame two miles long by one mile wide. No human being could possibly survive many minutes. Block after block fell, and the red hot coals shot higher and higher, and spread further and further, until the North side, Lake side and South was a vast sheet of flames from the river to the lake. At one time so hemmed in were the people that it was expected thousands must perish.

THE WORK OF A NIGHT.

One block in all the vast business section remained at daylight, the Tribune block. The custom house and Honore block, on Dearborn street, had burned, and those who had fought the flames here thought at last this block could be saved. A patrol of men, under Sam. Medill, swept off the live coals, and put out flames on the sidewalks, and another lot of men, under the direction of Hon. Joseph Medill, watched the roof.

At 7½ o'clock this appeared safe, and most of the men went to get a rest or food. A number went to sleep in the Tribune building, but there was a change of wind. The flames reached Wabash avenue, State

street and Michigan avenue, and soon McVicker's theater caught fire. In a few moments the Tribune was in flames, and at the last moment the sleeping men were aroused and rescued from the flames. By 10 o'clock in the forenoon this remaining block was in ashes. Now was to be seen the most remarkable sight ever beheld in this or any other country.

THE FLIGHT OF A PANIC STRICKEN MULTITUDE.

There were from 50,000 to 75,000 men women and children fleeing by every available street and alley to the southward and westward, attempting to save their clothing and their lives. Every available vehicle was brought into requisition for use, for which enormous prices were paid, and the streets and sidewalks presented the sight of thousands of persons and horses inextricably commingled; poor people of all colors and shades and every nationality, from Europe, China and Africa, mad with excitement, struggled with each other to get away. Hundreds were trampled under foot; men and women were loaded with bundles and their household goods, to whose skirts were clinging tender infants, half-dressed and barefooted, all seeking a place of safety. Hours afterwards these might have been seen in vacant lots or on the streets, far out in the suburbs, stretched in the dust.

FIVE HUNDRED BURNED TO DEATH.

It is fearful to think of the loss of life. It is conjectured, and with good cause, that near five hundred have been burned to death. We saw four men enter a burning building, and in a moment they were overwhelmed by a falling wall. There was a crowd of men around the corner of the building, trying to save the property, when, the wall yielding, some of them were buried beneath it. These were on the South side. On the North side twelve or fifteen men, women and children rushed into the building of the Historical society, a fire proof building, for safety. In a few minutes the flames burst up and they were burned to death.

AN ACCOUNT BY AN EYE WITNESS.

The following eloquent and truthful description of the fire was furnished by a gentleman who participated in the work throughout. No one but

AN EYE-WITNESS

can form an idea of the fury and power of the fire fiend, as he reveled among the palatial buildings and warehouses. On the south side, with the wind blowing a hurricane, at times it seemed but the work of a moment for the fire to enter the south ends of the buildings fronting on Randolph, Lake and Water streets, and reappear at the north doors and windows, belching forth in fierce flames, which often licked the opposite buildings. Then the flames, belching from the buildings on both sides of the street, would unite and present

A SOLID MASS OF FIRE,

completely filling the street from side to side, and shouting upward a hundred feet into the air. Thus was street after street filled with flame and fire, and the exultation of the fire fiend was given vent in a

roar which can only be likened to the noise of the ocean when its waters are driven by the tempest upon a rocky beach; combined with the howl of the blast.

HUGE WALLS WOULD TOPPLE

and fall into the sea of flame without apparently giving a sound, as the roar of the fiery element was so great that all minor sounds were swallowed up, and the fall of walls was only perceptible to the eye and not to the ear. If our readers will call to their minds the fiercest snow storm in their experience, and imagine the snow to be fire, as it surged hither and thither before the fury of the storm, they will be able to form a faint conception of the scene as the flames raged through the streets of our doomed city. Many of the buildings situated along South Water street buried their red hot rear walls in the waters of the river into which they

PLUNGED WITH A HISS

like unto nothing earthly, throwing up a billow which would gradually ensue until other walls would follow. The heat was so intense at times from some of the burning buildings that they could not be approached within one hundred and fifty feet, which accounts for the manner in which the fire worked back often against the wind. The fire, after reaching the business part of Randolph and South Water streets, leaped the river on to the North side in an incredibly short space of time, and thence, among the wooden buildings on that side, it reached the lake shore, after touching block after block of happy dwellings with its fierce blast. A scene of more

POWERLESS EFFORT

to fight an enemy was never presented than this. The people tried to combat the fire, but the combat was not of long duration, and they bowed their heads in anguish of spirit, and suffered the fiend to have untrammelled sway, and well and thoroughly has he done his work. As there is nothing in the history of civilized nations that chronicles any effects to which this can be compared, so in all future time

THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE,

when mentioned, will bring a pang of anguish to the listeners of future generations. It will be a simile of everything that is fearful and terrible. While there are a great many instances of generous devotion on the part of rich and poor in dividing with the destitute, there are painful

instances of cupidity and selfishness. One was trying to remove valuable papers from an office, and asked two firemen to help him, which they refused unless he paid them fifty dollars. The papers were destroyed. Drivers of express wagons have taken one hundred, and even five hundred dollars for an hour's use of their vehicles from distressed people. Among the sad accompaniments of the calamity were to be seen hundreds of men and boys

BEASTLY INTOXICATED

around the streets. The North division, where the saloon keepers' stock was turned into the street, furnished a convenient opportunity for the gratification of such propensities, and there can hardly be a doubt that many of these poor wretches found

their deaths in the flames, from which they were too helpless to escape.

A MISERABLE DEATH.

One poor man had crawled for refuge into a water main, lying in the street near the waterworks, but the fire fiend found him even there, before he could get his body wholly in safety and robbed him of his life.

THE ENTIRE NORTH DIVISION

is swept clean from Chicago river to Wright's grove, a distance of more than three miles, but one house, that of Mahlon D. Ogden, formerly the Hon. Wm. B. Ogden's, remains standing in the entire district. A large portion of the population, driven from this desolated ground, are encamped on the prairie to the north, where they have nothing but the canopy of heaven to cover them, and scarcely sufficient food to satisfy their hunger.

THE LANDSCAPE.

Singly or in clusters are the ruins of many churches looming against the sky, among the most noticeable of which are the North Presbyterian, Episcopalian, corner of Cass and Superior streets, the German Lutheran, Robert Collyer's church of the Unity, the New England Congregational, the German Reform, St. Joseph's and St. Michael's (Catholic), and others. The ruins of Sand's, Lill's, Henck's, and Bush & Brand's breweries are also prominent features. Towards the northeast, the waterworks tower lifts its beautiful proportions uninjured to the sky, but

THE WATERWORKS,

immediately to the east of it, and hundreds of feet from other buildings, is a complete wreck, the engines and massive machinery within presenting a scene of utter destruction and desolation. Near the junction of the north and south branches of the river were

FOUR IMMENSE ELEVATORS,

which succumbed to the flames about 10 o'clock on Monday morning, and are heaps of burning grain and timber. Near Rush street bridge, on the North side, the Galea elevator is but a mass of smouldering ruin. McCormick's Reaper works, to the east, and the sugar refinery beyond, have also been swept away.

A CEMETERY INVADED

The fire even entered the old cemetery at North avenue, and licked up the trees and shrubbery, cracking and destroying the tombstones in its way.

THE MOST REMARKABLE FEATURE

of all, is the fact that the brick of buildings was burnt to ashes the same as if wood, so that for the most part the rubbish does not present a formidable appearance, there being but here and there a projection of wall. Hundreds of acres are almost as clean as nicely cleared fields. Stone work, both sand and limestone, melted down, for the most part, into one disintegrated mass.

THE ST. LOUIS TIMES' SPECIAL TELEGRAPHIC ACCOUNT.

THE ORIGIN OF THE GREAT FIRE.

The fire on Saturday evening, as has been already stated, occurred in the planing mill on the corner of Halstead and Canal streets. It spread with alarming ra-

pidity, and before it was subdued had swept away a large portion of South Chicago. The damage, however, was comparatively within bounds, most of the buildings destroyed being frame and of small size.

THE GREAT FIRE.

The origin of the Sunday night fire has already been stated. It was occasioned by the explosion of a kerosene lamp in a barn near DeKoven street. The flames at once enveloped the stable and spread to adjoining wooden buildings, which were soon in a blaze. A strong wind prevailed at the time, and all efforts to subdue the fire were unavailing. In a few minutes it had reached a large roofing establishment, where over 1000 barrels of tar were stored, and this it was which gave it its fearful velocity. The conflagration became general and roared like a vast furnace. Iron buildings, which were supposed to be fire proof, melted down in a few minutes, and solid stone churches sank before it as if blown up by powder. I counted

TWENTY-NINE RUINS OF CHURCHES, many of them as fine structures as any in the country, and which cost not less on an average than \$75,000 each. A few bare walls only are left to tell the story of their former grandeur. Leaving the corner of Congress street and Michigan avenue, and driving along the lake and through the upper portion of the city to Lincoln park, for five miles, the eye rests upon nothing but a shapeless mass of wreck and ruin. The great cathedral, the bishop's mansion, Potter Palmer's hotel palace, hundreds of elegant and expensive stores and dwellings all fell before the flame storm, which consumed in twenty-four hours five hundred millions of dollars worth of property.

A SINGULAR CIRCUMSTANCE

is the entire absence of rubbish aside from the walls left standing. Scarcely a stone or brick or a scrap of iron can be seen on the ground. It is all reduced to powder.

The fire passed by and around the water tower fronting the avenue, without even shattering a pane of glass, and attacked the rear building, burning out all the wood works and injuring the engines so as to render them powerless. This cut off the supply of water, and left the great city entirely at the mercy of the merciless fiend.

THE HEAVIEST SUFFERERS.

I had a lengthy conversation with M. D. Ogden, Esq., the largest lumber dealer in the West. His residence alone escaped, and now stands solitary and alone in a wilderness of desolation, covering an area three miles long by one mile wide. It is a double frame structure, two stories high, with a Mansard roof, and escaped without being even scorched. The flames came sweeping down Dearborn street, leaving scarcely one stone upon another, and was caught by a counter current of wind just at his house, and changing its course, shot in another direction, leaving naught in its wake but wreck and ruin. In other portions of the city Mr. Ogden was less fortunate. His vast lumber yards were swept away, including three and a half million feet of pine and other lumber, and entailing upon him a loss of fully two millions of dollars.

A SAD SCENE

His nephew, Wm. Jones, is among the many victims who were devoured by the flames. He removed his family from his residence, and had parted with his wife but a few moments, when his horse and buggy were seen dashing along the streets, and it is presumed that the young man was thrown out and burnt before he could escape. To add to his losses, Mr. Ogden received a telegram yesterday announcing that his lumber mills at Pestigo, on Green Bay, Wisconsin, had been destroyed, together with the town, burning alive thirty souls, including his partner, wife and three children, his nephew and wife and his superintendent and family of three. The dispatch added: "The woods are all ablaze and we fear your pinery will be destroyed." Mr. Ogden bore up bravely under this series of appalling disasters, merely remarking, "If this be true, I shall lose \$3,000,000 more and be a ruined man." This is but one of the many terrible stories I hear hourly.

POTTER PALMER'S LOSSES

are immense. Two miles of magnificent stores on State street are in ruins and his grand hotel, the Pacific house, is gone. He had invested millions of dollars in building up Chicago, and to do this had mortgaged heavily the larger part of his improved property. It was but a short time before the fire, that he secured a loan of \$650,000 at 7 3/10 per cent, and he has nothing left to meet his heavy loans but barren lots and what little improved property may have been spared in the southern part of the city, entirely inadequate to make him whole. He was largely insured in home companies, most of which are bankrupt and unable to meet their losses.

THE GRAIN BONFIRE.

The elevators, which completely enveloped the city, and which contributed largely to the trade of Chicago, were swept away in a few moments. There are but four left standing, two owned by Munn & Scott, one by Flint & Thompson, and the Central elevator on the lake. Three million bushels of grain are still burning, making monstrous bonfires, which, with the acres of coal on fire, cast a dismal glare over the ruins at night, and present a heart sickening spectacle.

THE LOSS OF LIFE

cannot at present be computed, but it has doubtless been fearful. Already over a hundred charred bodies have been dug from the ruins, and hundreds of frantic persons are scouring the city in search of their loved ones, who have been missing since Sunday. An old French woman, who barely escaped with her life, told me to-day that she counted no less than forty persons, men, women and children, in the river at one time, all of whom met a watery grave.

A FEARFUL REPORT.

The servants at the Tremont house were in the top story of the hotel at the time of its conflagration, and as none of them have been seen since, it is feared that they were burned to death. There were about forty of them.

WHAT IS LEFT OF THE CITY.

The entire business portion of the city is destroyed. The pride of Chicago, State

street, with its large stone rows, Randolph, Madison, Monroe and Washington streets, with their grand hotels, massive insurance and banking establishments and wholesale houses, are laid in ashes. The West side stands as before, but, with few exceptions, contains nothing but frame buildings. Portions of Wabash and Michigan avenues and the North end remain, with some handsome residences, but the valuable and elegant portions of the city are a mass of smouldering ruins. The postoffice and custom house suffered less from the conflagration perhaps than most of the buildings. Everything of an inflammable nature was consumed, but the walls are intact and the edifices can easily be rebuilt. The same is true in part of the Tribune building. Its exterior is nearly intact, but it is otherwise in ruins. It is stated to-day that the four and six cylinder presses are but slightly injured, and can be put in running order in a few days. The Tremont house, Revere house, Pacific house, Dunlap house, Massachusetts house and other hotels destroyed, and board of trade building were literally razed to the ground. The only prominent buildings remaining are the Michigan Avenue hotel, Laclede hotel, Denison house, Heeneey & Campbell's planing mill, the Vulcan Iron works, Kehoe's blocks, Hoerber's block, the convent, St. John's Congregational church, the Park Congregational church, Turner hall, Salem German Lutheran church, Jesuit cathedral, college and school house, three elevators, the railroad machine shops and car works and Burlington hall.

A HEART RENDING SCENE.

I went out yesterday to the prairie, where the homeless and homeless sufferers took shelter, and I never before witnessed such a heart rending spectacle. Spread out upon the ground were some seventy-five thousand persons, most of them without a blanket to cover them, and all suffering from cold and neglect. They informed me that their sufferings had been intense, and that during the night over a dozen of their number had died. One poor woman was vainly striving to give nourishment to an infant about four weeks old, while by her side lay the dead body of a little girl of three years. They are being conveyed to the city and afforded shelter, raiment and food as rapidly as possible.

GAS AND WATER.

A portion of the city has been in darkness three days, owing to the destruction of the gas works in the east and south portions of the city. The western works are the property of C. K. Garrison, Esq., of New York, and a brother of the St. Louis family of Garrisons. Pipes are now being laid through the tunnel to connect the east end, and gas will be turned on in a few days. There being but one residence on the South side, it is not probable that these works will be rebuilt for some time to come.

Labor will be speedily commenced on the waterworks, and it is expected that the engines will be in running order in a few weeks. Meantime, the fire engines are being employed in forcing water into the pipes for daily consumption, and fire streams are running in most parts of the burned district.

THE NEWSPAPERS TO GO ON.

The Journal, Mail and Tribune have appeared, in abbreviated form. They are being published at Edwards' printing house until new buildings can be erected. The Times will be out in its usual dress and size as soon as the type can be shipped from the East.

HOW CHICAGOANS TREAT THE MATTER.

Rents have advanced enormously on all empty and tenatable houses, the owners being quick to take advantage of the terrible situation. I was shown a small six-room dwelling to day, for which \$75 a month is demanded, that could have been rented at \$12 six days ago. The same spirit is manifested by dealers generally, exorbitant prices being demanded for all the necessities of life. The few hotels left standing are asking \$8 per day, and inferior accommodations at that. This is all wrong, and is loudly condemned by the better class of citizens, who justly think that "charity should begin at home."

THE WORK OF RECONSTRUCTION.

Despite the terrible condition of affairs, which has swept away in a few brief hours the fortunes of half the community, there is a fixed determination on the part of most of them to fight over the battle of life on the old stamping ground. Space has been obtained on the Michigan Avenue commons for business firms, who are busy erecting small frame offices, and from almost every private residence may be seen the signs of well known wholesale and retail dealers.

A few of the more enthusiastic talk of making Chicago more formidable than ever in five years. The railroad managers have agreed to furnish their full share of means, and Boston and New York capitalists have telegraphed that they will advance \$5,000,000 if necessary. This will go greatly towards repairing the injury, but is far short of \$500,000,000, the aggregate loss.

THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE'S SPECIAL TELEGRAPHIC ACCOUNT.

I have just returned from the ghastliest promenade ever seen in the world. From Congress street to Lincoln park, and beyond to Wright's grove, four miles of what was last week the business and most vigorous city of the West is now one

WIDE SPREAD DESOLATION, marked by scorched and calcined chimneys, by mounds of glowing brick and stone, all covered like a wintry plain with a fall of whitening ashes. The vastness and monotony of the view is as wearisome and depressing as that of

THE DESERT.

Formerly every quarter of the city had its distinctive character, and along the banks of Lake Michigan to the south of the river, rose the stately mansions of the men whose energy and industry made Chicago what it was. Few streets in any city could present so uniform a display of wealth and taste in their residences as Wabash and Michigan avenues. In the space bounded on three sides by the lake and the Chicago river, and on the south by Van Buren street, there were embraced some of the finest business houses on the

continent, and a higher average of beautiful and

COSTLY ARCHITECTURE
than had ever been applied in the world to purposes of trade. Along the river, on either side, the tall, ungainly forms of the elevators, the

MONSTROUS GROWTH
of the commerce of the Northwest mirrored their awkward angles in the turbid waters.

IN THE NORTH DIVISION
the ground to the west, occupied by large manufacturing establishments, and to the east by the modest and tasteful houses of the trading classes—all this variety and distinction have been obliterated in a day by the

LEVELING HAND
of the conflagration. The loveliest garden on the avenue, which was just below my window, is as squalid and miserable with the wild trampling of the hoofs of this disaster as any back-yard of a soap boiler on Canal street. The wretched tenement houses which shelter the laboring poor are now clean and

WHITE IN THEIR ASHES
and their chimneys form a shapeless monument; there is equality at least between a hovel and palace in their **SHROUDS OF DESOLATION.**

What most impresses one in the aspect of the burnt district, is its utter loneliness, the debris which encumbered the streets the day after the fire has in a great measure been cleared away. The sidewalks are somewhat littered still by the ruins, but circulation is perfectly free throughout the quarter. In the center of the city, there is a certain number of

CURIOUS SPECTATORS
lounging and chatting among the ragged and tottering walls.

The hotels have migrated also, carrying their names and their traditions with them. The great business houses are crowding relics of their stock into shops that burst with richness, and far down Michigan avenue, in that safe stretch of lake side that lies beyond Michigan terrace, the last and loveliest sacrifice to the flames, you see the names of banks and insurance companies hastily

SCRAWLED ON TIN SHINGLES
and hung at the doors of decorous private houses on the low sand beach that lies below Michigan avenue. They have projected a line of temporary business houses, and the first of them went up all at once, and as quickly as a house of cards under my window this evening. A dozen will probably be built to-morrow. There seems to be

NO BRAVADO,
no ostentatious pluck and audacity, but a resolute, manly determination to make the most of a bad situation.

These superb merchants and business men do not seem to think there is anything fine in their attitude, but the world will certainly not deny them its hearty admiration. The city is

ORDERLY AND TRANQUIL,
the hungry are fed and the naked are clothed. The churches and the public buildings of the West side give shelter to the homeless. The railways convey to

their friends all who desire to go. The best people devoutly trust that the term of severest stress and panic is over.

THE CHICAGO EVENING JOURNAL'S ACCOUNT.

The Chicago Evening Journal of Tuesday, October 10th, the first paper of that city to make its appearance after the general destruction of the newspaper press, contained the following items of interest relative to the great fire:

THE RUIN.
The great fire of Chicago laid waste over 1800 acres, upwards of 18,000 buildings and rendered about 85,000 persons homeless.

As to pecuniary loss no fire which ever occurred in the world has been attended with that suffered by Chicago, as in no city was there such an amount of valuable merchandise, or so many expensive buildings destroyed. Most of our merchants had received their winter stocks of goods, none of which they were able to save. The loss in merchandise alone at this last great conflagration will be double that suffered by London and Moscow combined.

But the great heart of Chicago is not broken, nor her spirit of enterprise crushed. She will arise from her ashes, with an energy that will eclipse all her former efforts, and speedily regain her former position.

GENERAL APPEARANCE.
One thing particularly strikes the passengers through all the streets—the absence of everything of a combustible nature. Brick, stone and iron abound, and make up whatever is left of the most magnificent and costly structures. Dirt, in the ordinary sense of the term, has vanished; all is clean, but oh how desolate. Another thing is the uniformity of the destruction. The marble palaces and cheaper brick and mortar blocks lie in common disorder. There is no distinction, except in the presence of iron pillars, and marble door and window ornaments.

WHAT IS LEFT.
The only buildings left intact between the river and the lake and the river and Madison street are Hathaway's coal office, one of the Buckingham elevators on the lake shore, and the Lind block, at the corner of Randolph and Market. Not a vestige of any wooden structure is left in sight, and the walls of the majority of the buildings in the district described are leveled with the ground. In some instances, partition walls have not altogether fallen, but rear their pointed heads high above the surrounding ruins.

THE COURT HOUSE.
Bleak, smoked, hollow and desolate, up on the scene, rear the walls of the court house—scene of many a distressing and exciting trial of local legislation and public business. Not only have the roofs "buckled" but the entire structure looms up from where we write, a ruined monument of departed greatness. The old fence remains with the tessellated pavements, but the glory of the tribunals and the council chamber are things of the past.

LAKE STREET.

From the Tremont to the great Union depot is not far, but its wealth of merchandise and stately edifices were known far and near throughout the West, but the eye dims and the pulse goes slow when the ruin of this noble mart meets the sight.

SOUTH SIDE.

The scene in this section of the city is too appalling to be dwelt upon with other words than those which will in the most adequate manner convey an idea of the reality, which seems beyond the power of tongue or pen to relate. The streets that are burnt over are Madison, Monroe, Adams, Jackson, Van Buren, Congress, and Michigan avenue, where it was checked, the Michigan avenue hotel being saved. On Wabash it burned through to Harrison street. The last house burned on the east side of Wabash avenue. On the west side, Dr. McChesney's (the Wabash avenue Methodist) church was not burned at the northeast corner of Harrison and Wabash avenue. On State street, 356 was the last number burned. This was the south limit so far west as the track of the Michigan Southern railroad track. The long freight houses (in and out freight) were burned with all their contents; cars and everything as far south as Taylor, and west of the east track. Taylor street, the north limit of a great lumber district, was not crossed to the south. Thus, in short, there is only one building within the limits above described which is not burned to ashes, and this seems to have escaped through a miracle—it is numbered 91 to 99 Harrison street, on the corner of North avenue. The streets which run north and south are Michigan avenue, Wabash avenue, State, Dearborn, Clark, LaSalle, Wells, Sherman, Griswold and Market streets. This section of the city contained the glory of our architecture, and the palatial residences of some of our most wealthy citizens. The names of individual owners cannot be given, but the prominent business structures were the depot of the Lake Shore, and Chicago, and Rock Island and Pacific railroad, on Van Buren, from Sherman to Griswold, and south to Harrison; the Pacific hotel, which was ready for the roof, and occupied a block; the custom house, which is gutted; the heavy whitened walls alone standing; Honore's blocks, finished and unfinished, on Dearborn, from Monroe to Adams; the Tribune building, the Times office, the Post building, the office of the Staats Zeitung and numerous publications. The elegant structure known as the Lake Side Press building, on Clark, the Young Men's Christian association library, the Republic Insurance building, Farwell hall, McVicker's theater, the Clifton house, the academy of Design, Conn & Ten Broeck's Manufacturing company's building, on Adams street; the Palmer house, St. Mary's, St. Paul's Catholic church, Universalist, Second Presbyterian, Trinity Episcopal church, First Presbyterian church, Michigan avenue, Terrace row, the Chicago club, Putter Palmer's new hotel, unfinished, Robert Law's coal yard, Rogers & Co.'s coal yard, the largest firms of the city, the Jewish synagogue, northeast corner of Fourth ave-

nue and Harrison streets, the New Club on Harrison and State, the Bigelow house, on Dearborn and Adams, which would have been opened this week. All of the bridges over the river from Madison to Twelfth streets are burned. On the West Side the ravages were dire, sweeping away the great manufactories and mills and the elevators of that section lying were burned, together with two large ice houses; section C of the warehouses alone being saved. The apex of the field of desolation, which is a horizontal cone, is at the corner of DeKoven and Jefferson street, and from there the burnt track sweeps northeast, widening and widening for a distance of some five miles, while the distance to the lake is almost between Jefferson and the river east and west, and Van Buren and DeKoven, the first street north of Twelfth, north and south, and from any point can be seen a dozen or more tall chimneys marking the site of as many enormous manufacturing buildings. None of them can be named accurately. The Chicago Dock company's ware house, on Taylor street, and the Pittsburgh and Fort Wayne railroad.

BANK VAULTS.

One of our reporters made the tour of the banks (that were) this morning. The indications were that all the vaults were safe. The currency and securities, which could not be replaced (not counting the United States bonds, which could be) locked in those vaults must be several hundred millions.

At this writing, only one vault has been opened, that of the Commercial National. Everything was found in a perfect state of preservation. There were all sorts of wild rumors afloat about the total destruction of this and that bank, including vaults and safes. Many safes may be seen among the debris of the burnt district, apparently in a good state of preservation.

REAL ESTATE TITLES.

All the records of deeds and mortgages are destroyed. This includes all the real estate, not only in Chicago, but in Cook county, with its numerous suburban towns. Fortunately the abstracts of titles in the office of Shortall & Hoard, conveyancers, are known to be safe.

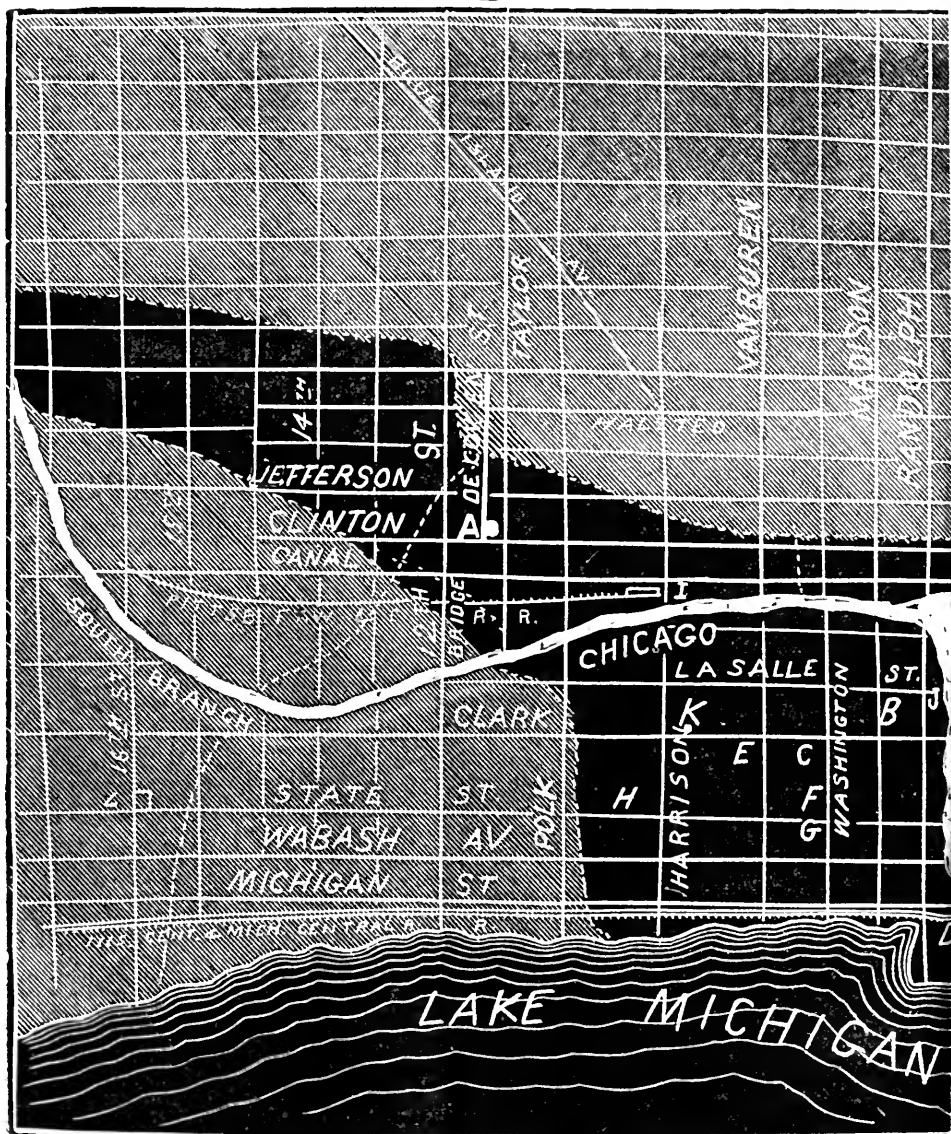
A leading member of the Chicago bar gives it as his opinion that the title to all the property in the county can be re-established by means of these abstracts. The Legislature will probably pass some enabling act to cover the case.

As to the value of real estate, it is now entirely indeterminate, because it is impossible to divine where the future business center will be. The latter will depend upon the location selected by the leading business houses, which are already in consultation.

THE FOUR EXCEPTIONS.

There are only four buildings standing on the South Side below VanBuren street. Those four are the custom house, the court house, the First National bank building and the Tribune building. They were all completely burned out, nothing remaining except the walls and parts of partitions. We doubt if any of them can ever be used again, except the custom house. Those immense walls seem to have stood

Map of the Great



The black shading shows the extent of the fire, which covers an area of a mile in width, by five miles in length, or over 3000 acres. A is the starting point of the Sun-

day night conflagration, at the junct DeKoven and Jefferson streets; B the house; C, the postoffice; D, the Ill Central railroad depot; E, Board of T

Fire in Chicago.



building; F, G and J, the Matteson, Tremont and Sherman hotels; H, the Michigan Southern railroad depot; I, the St. Louis, Alton and Pittsburgh depot, and K, the

Central reservoir. Of that portion in light shade, only a part is built up. Lincoln park joins the extreme north, which was the upper limit of the fire.

the fire test without flinching. The masonry of the other three has been very seriously impaired.

BANKS.

There is not a bank left in all Chicago, unless it be some little house remote from what was the center of business. The actual losses of the bankers cannot be computed, even approximately, in any one case. One thing we are authorized to state positively. The banks will resume regular business in a few days.

It should be added that the Union Stock Yards National bank is the only national bank now in working order in Cook county. The Cook County National bank suffered less than any other, because the farthest south of any. It was located in the northern corner of the Honore block. The Union National was the first to go, although the Northwestern and Corn exchange, located in the chamber of commerce, went about the same time. Indeed, it was not an hour after those on the ground thought any bank in danger, before all, unless it was the First National and the Cook County National, were in flames.

THE JAIL.

There were on Sunday evening confined in the jail about ninety prisoners, all of whom were given free exit when it became apparent that the court house would burn, the jail doors being thrown wide open at about 2 o'clock yesterday morning. All of the prisoners embraced the unexpected opportunity to escape, and immediately left for various parts of the city with the exception of George Dresser, who went at once to the West Side police station and gave himself up, where he is now in custody. Mr. Dresser, it will be remembered, is the man who recently, while acting as keeper in the Bridewell, was the occasion of the death of a prisoner by throwing him from the corridor into the yard.

THE COURTS.

There is not a law office nor a law library left in Chicago, except the few small duplicate libraries at the residences of the leading lawyers. There is not a paper showing that there is a suit pending in any of the six courts of record in Cook county, including the Federal court. There is not an indictment in existence in the county against any one, not a judgement, not a petition in bankruptcy in the Federal courts. Even the duplicate files that the lawyers kept in their offices of important cases are all gone.

FROM ST. LOUIS.

And now comes St. Louis, great rival of Chicago in enterprise and business, and greater than Chicago in noble generosity. \$150,000 in money and ten car loads of cooked provisions are brought here by Mr. Blow, on behalf of that city, and ten more cars, loaded with miscellaneous provisions and supplies, are reported from the same city. If Chicago ever has the opportunity—which may heaven forbid—she will prove herself a worthy rival, even in these good works.

A GLANCE AT THE RUINS.

The Chicago Evening Journal of the 14th

contained the following philosophic view of the ruins of the great fire. It says:

Now that the smoke of the burned district has cleared away and the general confusion, at first so confounding, has very considerably subsided, we are able to take a bird's-eye view of the general loss, which we give below:

PUBLIC HALLS AND BLOCKS, ETC.

Alken's museum, Andrews' building, Andrews' & Otis' building, Arcade building, Arcade court, Berlin block, Blake's building, Blaney hall, Boone block, Bowen's building, Burch's block, Calhoun block, Foltz's hall, Chamber of Commerce building, Chicago Mutual Life Insurance building, Chicago "Times" building, City armory, City gas works, Court house, City waterworks, Cobb's block (No. 1), Cobb's building, Cobb's block (No. 2), Commercial building, Commercial Insurance company's building, Crosby's building and Crosby's Opera house, Custom house and postoffice, Democratic hall, Dickey's building, Doile's building, Drake's block, Ewing block, Exchange Bank building, Farwell hall, Fennell hall, Firemen's hall, Flanders' block, Etna building, Fullerton block, Gallup's building, Garrett block, German house, Turner Hall, (Clark street), Germania hall, Hartford Fire Insurance building, Health Lift building, Holt's building, Honore block, Illinois Central Railroad Land department building, Jackson hall, Keep's building, Kent's building, King's block, Kinzie hall, Larson block, Light Guard hall, Lincoln block, Link's block, Lloyd's block, Lombard block, Loomis building, Lumberman's exchange, McCarty's building, McCormick's building, McKee's building, Magie's building, Major block, Marine Bank building, Masonic temple, Mechanic's building, Mercantile building, Methodist Church block, Metropolitan Hall block, Monroe building, Morrison building, New Turner's hall, Newberry block, North Market hall, Norton block, Odd Fellow's hall, Old Board of Trade buildings, (South Water street) Oriental buildings, Otis block, (LaSalle street), Otis building (State street), Pardee's building, Phoenix building, Pomeroy's building, Pope's block, Portland block, Postoffice building, Purple's block, Raymond block, Reynolds' block, Rice's building, Scammon's building, Shepard's building, Sherman House block, Smith, Nixon & Ditson's hall, Smith & Nixon's block, Sons' hall, Speed's block, Staats Zeitung building, Steele's block, Stone's building, Taylor's block, Teutonia hall, Trade Assembly hall, Tribune building, Turners' building, Tyler block, Uhlich's block, North Division City Railway stables, Baer's block, Herting's building, Union building, Volk's building, Walker's block, Warner's hall and block, Washington block, Wheeler's building, Wicker's building, Witkowsky Hall building, Workmen's hall, Wright Bros.' building, Bryan's block.

In addition to the above were a large number of elegant buildings recently completed, or in process of erection, representing a valuation approximating millions of dollars.

CHURCHES.

North Baptist, Olivet Baptist (colored), Swedish Baptist, North Star Baptist, Mariners' Bethel, New England Congregational, Lincoln Park Congregational, Church of Our Savior (Epis.), Church of the Ascension (Epis.), Cooper's Independent, St. Ansgarius (Swedish Epis.); St. James (Epis.), Trinity (Epis.), Trinity Mission, Evangelical Association of North America, Evangelical Second church, Free Evangelical, English Lutheran (Ontario street), First German Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's, Evangelical Lutheran Trinity, First German United Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's, Illinois street Independent Mission, Jewish church of the North side, Kehleth Benai, Shalom (Jewish), First Methodist, Wabash avenue Methodist (separated), Grace Methodist, Grant place Methodist, Dixon street Methodist, Van Buren street German Methodist, Clayburn avenue German Methodist, Grace Scandinavian Methodist, Huron street Bethel, Bethel African Methodist, Quinn's African Methodist Chapel, First Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran, Swedish Evangelical Lutheran, First Presbyterian, Second Presbyterian, Westminster Presbyterian, Fullerton Avenue Presbyterian, North Presbyterian, Orchard Street Presbyterian, Bremer Street Independent Mission, Newsboys' Independent Mission and Home, Erie Street Presbyterian Mission, Burr Presbyterian Mission, Tammany Hall Mission, Catholic Cathedral of the Holy Name, St. Mary's Catholic Church and university, the Catholic Ecclesiastical palace, St. Louis' Catholic, St. Joseph's Catholic, St. Michael's Catholic, Church of the Immaculate Conception, St. Rose of Lima Catholic, Convent and Academy of St. Francis Xavier, Convent of the Sisters of Charity (North side), Convent of Notre Dame, House of the Good Shepherd, Convent of the Benedictine Fathers, Convent of the Benedictine Nuns, Convent of the Redemptionist Fathers, Swedenborgian Temple of the New Jerusalem, North Swedenborgian Mission, Unitarian Church of the Messiah (R. L. Collier's), Unity Church (Robert Collier's), St. Paul's Universalist.

BANKS.

Chicago Clearing house; First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Cook County, Commercial, City Manufacturers', Merchants', Mechanics', Loan and Trust, Northwestern, Traders', and Union National banks; International Mutual Trust company; Merchants' Savings, Loan and Trust company; Farmers', Merchants, and Mechanics'; State Savings institution; Real Estate, Loan and Trust company; Union Insurance and Trust company; Hibernian Banking association; Chicago Building and Loan associations; Swedish Commercial, National bank of Commerce, Marine bank.

PRIVATE BANKERS.

J. M. Adelt, A. C. & O. F. Badger, Baldwin, Walker & Co., H. Clausenius & Co., Tillman, Wrenn & Co., Cushman & Hardin, Folanabee & Son, Henry Greenebaum & Co., Greenebaum & Foreman, Lunt, Preston & Kean, Mayer, Leopold & Steiner, Meadowcroft Brothers, Nichoff & Co., Louis Sapieha, J. R. Shipperd & Co., Lazarus Silverman, A. O. Slaughter, George C. Smith & Bro., Snyderacker & Co., James B.

Storey & Co., Wilkins & Stone, Ferd S. Winslow, Collins & Ullman.

HOTELS.

Adams house, American, Brevoort house, Briggs house, Central house, City hotel, Clarendon house, Clifton house, Continental, Eagle, European (Dearborn street), European (State street), Everett, French (Wells street), French (Kinzie street), Fort Dearborn house, Garden City, Girard, Hatch, Heas, Garni, Howard house, Haber house, Illinois house, Jarvis house, Palmer, Bigelow, Ogden house, Laclede, Mansion house, Massasoit house, Matteson house, Moulton house, Metropolitan hotel, Michigan Central Railroad hotel, Bethel home, Nevada, New York, Orient, Potomac, Raymond house, Revere, Rock Island, Schall, Sherman, St. James, Tremont, Washington, Western Eagle and Wright's.

In addition to the above should be mentioned at least a dozen other buildings in course of erection and completion, representing a valuation of several hundred thousand dollars.

RAILWAY DEPOTS.

Great Union Central depot, (including the Illinois Central, Michigan Central and Chicago Burlington and Quincy), Southern Michigan and Rock Island, Northwestern (Wells street).

TELEGRAPH COMPANIES

Western Union, Metropolitan, Great Western, Atlantic and Pacific.

EXPRESSES.

Adams', American Merchants' Union, United States, Brink's.

NEWSPAPERS, ETC.

Evening Journal, Tribune, Times, Republican, Post, Mail, Ledger, Democrat, Agerdykning and Oeconomic, American Churchman, American Messenger, Amerikanischer Botschafter, Baptist Quarterly, Baptist Teacher, Catholic Weekly, Chicago City Directory, Commercial Bulletin, Commercial Express and Produce Reporter, Daily Law Record, Daily Programme, Daily Record, Dispatch, Druggists' Price Current, Dry Goods Price List, Evening Mail, Journal of Commerce, Legal News, Office Directory, Railway Review, Real Estate Journal, Union (German), Staats Zeitung, Child's Paper, Child's World, Dagbladet, Daily Commercial Reporter and Market Review, Der Deutsche Arbeiter, Der Hausfreund, Evening Lamp, Hemlandet, Hemlandet Ratta, Home Circle, Volks-Zeitung, Catholische Wochenblatt, Little Corporal, Live Stock Reporter, Macdonian and Record, Methodist Publishing House, National Baptist, New Covenant, News from the Spirit World, Northwestern Review, Publishers' Auxiliary, Railroad Gazette, School Festival, Sunday School World, Svenska Amerikanaren, Advance, Art Review, The Arts, Bright Side, Courier, The Chronicle, Congregational Review, Fremad, Herald of the Coming Kingdom, Land Owner, Inside Track, Liberal, Interior, Juxbruder, Life Boat, Lyceum Banner, National Prohibitionist, Observer, Pharmacist, Prairie Farmer, Religio Philosophical Journal, Scandinavian, Spectator, Standard Reporter, Western Odd Fellow, Western Rural, Soldiers' Friend, Westliche Unterhallungen, Worker, Workingman's Advocate, Young Reaper, and the following

MAGAZINES.

Lakeside Monthly, Manford's Home Journal, Medical Examiner, Bureau, Chicago (Mrs Rayne's) Missionary, Mystic Star Monthly, Sunday Scholar, Sunday School Helper, Sunday School Teacher, Voice of Masonry.

LIBRARIES

Historical Society, Law Institute, Metropolitan Hall Library association, Young Men's Christian association, Union Catholic, together with many others of great value.

CITY SCHOOLS

Dearborn, Jones, Kinzie, Franklin, Ogden, Newberry (schooled), Pearson Street Primary, Elva Street Primary, North Branch Primary, La Salle Street Primary, Third Avenue Primary.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Holy Name, St. Mary's, St. Joseph's, Immaculate Conception, First Lutheran, First United German Lutheran, St. Paul's Second and Third, Italian school, German and English.

ACADEMIES AND SEMINARIES.

Academy of Sciences, Christian Brothers, Holy Name, St. Francis Xavier, Bryant & Chase Commercial, Dearborn Ladies' seminary, Dyhrenfurth's Commercial, Goldbeck's Conservatory of Music, Law department of the University of Chicago, Rush Medical college, College of Pharmacy, Homeopathic Academy of Medicine, Charity Dispensary, Hahnemann Medical Dispensary, Bennett Medical and Surgical college.

HOSPITALS.

Women and Children's, Protestant Deaconess', Smallpox, Alexian Brothers', United States Marine hospital, Jewish.

ASYLUMS.

Newboys' and Bootblack's Home, Nursery and Half-orphan, St. Vincent, House of Providence, St. Paul's Presbyterian Orphan asylum, St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Orphan asylum, Charitable Eye and Ear infirmary.

MINOR LOSSES

Wentworth, Woolworth & Co., Briggs house. Loss on furniture, fixtures and horses in Briggs house, \$100,000. Insurance; Franklin, Philadelphia, \$5000; Republic, Chicago, \$5000; American Central, St. Louis, \$5000; Commercial Mutual, Cleveland, \$2500; Atlantic, New York, \$2500; Reaper City, Rockford, \$2500; Occidental, San Francisco, \$5000; Excelsior, New York, \$5000; Home, Columbus, Ohio, \$5000; Fulton, New York, \$5000; State, Chicago, \$2500; New England, Boston, \$5000; Irving, New York, \$2500; Merchants', Hartford, \$3000; North British and Mercantile, London, \$4000. Total, \$59,500.

The loss of the Chicago iron works, No. 146 to 152 (inclusive) North Water street, Dewey, Jones & Sanders, proprietors, is estimated at from \$50,000 to \$55,000; insurance \$10,000.

J. B. Hendrickson, 201, 205 and 211 South Clark street; loss, \$40,000; insurance, \$7000. William G. Holmes, on Lake street, books and stationery; losses \$30,000 to \$35,000.

H. R. Cabery, Masonic goods and regalia, 60 State street, loss \$10,000. Insurance—Allemania of Cleveland, \$1500; German of Cleveland, \$1500; Commercial of Chicago, \$3000; Home Mutual of Chicago, \$2000.

A. B. Case, music printer, 168 Clar

street, loss \$8000; insurance \$3000.

J. W. Crams, Clifton house barber shop and bathing rooms, corner Madison and Wabash avenue, loss \$1200; insurance \$500. Equitable, Chicago; loss total.

Cook & Monroe, loss on stock and machinery, \$2500; no insurance.

M. Donahue, insured in the Great Western of Chicago for \$1000 on household furniture; his total loss is about \$3000.

E. D. Swain, dentist, No. 129 State street, office furniture and instruments, \$800.

Gillet, McCulloch & Co. were at 61 Michigan avenue, proprietors Gillet's chemical works, flavoring extracts, baking powder, &c., the largest in the West; loss \$80,000.

THRILLING INCIDENTS OF THE GREAT DISASTER.

We copy from the New York Sun the following thrilling incidents:

A YOUNG LADY'S STORY.

Miss Rollins had a most narrow escape from a fiery death. She was surrounded by the flames, and dashed through a space where the wooden pavement had kindled into a blaze. She tells the following story:

When the second fire broke out in the South division, nearly all the people became insane with terror. I never can tell of the universal horror of those hours. They were years. I don't wonder that men seemed demented and women hysterical. One of the little girls that attended my school became lost. I found her crying as though her heart would break. She is but seven years old, and she could not tell what had become of her parents and family. There were many such cases. As we went on further the throng increased, until the streets and sidewalks were black with people. It was like a freshet, and poured in the one direction of safety. By and by we found the fire getting around us as though escape would be cut off, and we would be entombed in one grand pyre of flame. "Go the other way; we are headed off!" was now and then the cry, and the multitude would turn back struggling in a new direction. I saw some women and children and one man, exhausted, lie down in the gutters to die in the hopelessness of desperation. Others would seize and urge them along. Smoke and cinders and flame and scorching heat filled the air.

CHILDREN SCREAMED IN TERROR and begged for water. Some would catch up water from puddles near hydrants and moisten the mouth. "This is the day of judgment! this must be the end of the world!" exclaimed more than one. The degree of sympathy that prevailed was wonderful. There seemed to be one instinctive throb of feeling, and the strong helped the weak. I believe that thieves had a great deal to do with the fire. If they did not start it in the first place they kindled flames in fresh places. I saw houses that had been deserted entered by ill-looking fellows, who ransacked bureaus and closets. There was no time to speak to them. Once or twice when they were spoken to they professed to have been sent by the owners to save things. Many people in the haste of their escape abandoned

everything, even to jewelry and money. I saw one fellow's pocket half full of jewelry and watches. I spoke of it, but in an instant he lost himself in the crowd. I saw a colored man with a lady's chataleine chain snaped awkwardly at his vest. The little girl I had walked until the hot pavements blistered her little feet. Then we carried her. "Is papa and mamma burnt up? Is Neddle burnt up dead?" she piteously asked. Late at night we found them all safe. It was nearly morning before we obtained shelter and food. I never want to set eyes upon Chicago again.

MR. LOCKWOOD'S STORY.

Miss Rollins's story is not so thrilling as that of the gentlemen, especially Mr. Lockwood, who, in company with Mr. Wallace, escaped across the river in a boat, the bridges being useless. Thence they crossed the lumber district, which had commenced to blaze. In one instance they had to leap over the burning timber. Upon a roof they clambered to get a breath and rest and view. They said:

"We had an awful sight from here. Four dray horses were penned up in a eat yard, on either side of which were aisles of lumber blazing, crackling and snapping fiercely. The air was intensely hot and the smoke stifling. The poor animals had got loose and ran to and fro, their nostrils expanded, their eyes aglare with terror, and uttering all the time wild, despairing cries, pawing the ground, rolling in the dust and rearing in fury. We sickened at the sight and hastened away, for our own salvation was none too certain. Arriving at the Court house, we pushed through the multitude and finally obtained a place in the tower. Here we had an extended vision of the devastation. The night was hideous with scenes and sounds more infernal than human. Below us in the square among the crowd we recognized

A MAN WHO PREACHES INFIDEL SERMONS, or rather tirades from the steps, and frequently was stopped by the people on account of the great disturbance he incited. Now he was wringing his hands as if in agony, and wailing and shouting: "Where is God now! Where is God now! Show us the angels!" &c.

This he continued until an officer collared and thrust him into the basement, where his raving were less audible.

The crowds could be seen in the streets huddled together, stupefied with fear, gazing like demented ones upon the awful panorama. The lurid glare gave everything a crimson hue, and the moving figures in the avenues seemed like lumps of brimstone. Horses were terrified, and snorted and neighed as they were tremblingly forced to go. The cries of children and parents seeking each other in vain were more than heart-rending. Very few of the rougher classes were intoxicated, and even these seemed awed into decorum. On and on with remarkable speed came the flaming procession. It leaped the river, and strided on with unopposed fury. The multitude now began to leave. All the hotels had been emptied, and flight was imperative.

A HORRIBLE TRAGEDY.

Just now occurred a scene that froze our

blood. At the intersection of Randolph and Market streets was a large building (Callem's) used for offices. The janitor resided on the fourth floor with his family, consisting of a wife and four children. By some means they were unable to escape. Surrounded by the fire, they ascended to the roof. The babe was in the mother's arms, and another child, a little boy, clung to her skirts. Two girls were clasped in the arms of the father. Their shouts were but faintly heard over the howl of the winds and the roar of the flames. At last the heat became so intense that the woman was overcome and fell to the roof. The father wildly threw out his hand and staggered, writhed, and sunk by his wife's side. That was all of that tragedy. We sickened at the sight, and hurried down to the street, which by this time was pretty well deserted. Then along the banks of the lake we wandered, more like dead than living men. We heard and saw mourning and agony and suffering that all the books in the world could not hold the account of. We were comfortably fixed in lite one week ago; now we are penniless. We have no doubt that incendiaries did part of the work, and for robbery and ravage."

The shoes and clothing of all the party attested the severity of the ordeal through which they had passed.

THE TERRIBLE SCENES OF MONDAY.

The following is from the Chicago Tribune of October 12th:

SCENES ON WABASH AVENUE.

The scene presented on Wabash avenue on Monday, for a period extending from 4 o'clock A. M. till late in the day, was a most extraordinary one, calling to mind most vividly the retreat of a routed army. The lower part of the avenue had, at an early hour, been occupied by residents of burning quarters, who sought safety for themselves and their chattels by depositing them on the grass plats skirting the sidewalks. For a long distance these plats were occupied by families, mostly of the lower classes, with their household goods. They supposed that they had discovered a place of security, but their confidence in this regard proved unfounded. As the fire commenced spreading up the avenue a wild scene of confusion ensued. The street was crowded with vehicles of all descriptions, many drawn by men, who found it impossible to procure draught animals. The sidewalks were filled with a hurrying crowd, bearing in their arms and upon their backs and heads clothing, furniture, &c. Ladies dressed in elegant costumes, put on with a view of preserving them, and with costly apparel of all kinds thrown over their arms and shoulders, staggered along under the unwonted burden. Poor women with mattresses upon their heads, or weighed down with furniture, tottered with weary steps up the crowded street. Nearly every one wore a stern expression, and moved on without a word, as if they had braced up their minds to endure the worst without manifesting any emotion. Occasionally, however, the wail of women and children rent the air, bringing tears to the eyes of those who witnessed the manifes-

tations. Poor little children shivered in the cold night air, and looked with wide open eyes upon the scene they could not comprehend. Ludicrous incidents were of occasional occurrence, lighting up with a sort of horrible humor the terrible realities of the situation. Women would go by with dogs in their arms, their pets being all they had saved from the ruins of their homes. An octogenarian ran in a yard, with a large cat enfolded in his feeble embrace. Men dragging wagons were green veils over their faces to protect their eyes from the blinding dust. Drunken men staggered among the crowds, apparently possessed of the idea that the whole affair was a grand municipal spree, in which they were taking part as a duty that should be discharged by all good citizens. Trucks passed up street loaded with trunks, on which sat ladies in costly garb, and with diamonds on their fingers. But one day before they would have scorned the idea of riding in anything less imposing than a luxurious landau or coupe; but their pride was leveled in the presence of the universal imminent danger, and they were thoroughly glad to get the humblest cart in which to place themselves and their valuables.

The great portion of the people knew not whither they were going. All they knew was that the horrible fire was behind them and they must move on. The stream poured southward for hours—the broad avenue being filled from house to house with men, women, children, horses, mules, vehicles, wheelbarrows—everything that could move, or could be moved. Truckmen and express drivers were hailed from the steps of houses, or eagerly pursued by the occupants, with the view of securing their aid in removing household goods to places of safety. In many instances the appeals were unsuccessful, their services having been previously engaged by other parties; but when they were disengaged they charged the most exorbitant prices, ranging from \$5 to \$100 for a load, and turning up their noses at offers of amounts less than they asked. This class of people made great profit out of the calamities of their fellow-citizens. Their pockets may be heavy to-day, but their consciences, if they have any, should be still heavier. The instances of generosity were, however, far in excess of those of greed and selfishness. People from districts which had not already burned, or who had secured their own goods, turned in with a will and worked to assist their friends, and frequently rendered aid to persons whom they did not even know. Good angels, in the shape of women, distributed food among the sufferers, and spoke kind words to those who seemed to labor under the severest affliction. Human nature, God be thanked, has its bright as well as its dark sides.

In addition to the crowds pressing southward throngs of people moved northward to see what they could see. And these counter currents frequently caused a jam that was almost inextricable. But after great effort, interspersed with considerable loud talking and no small degree of profanity, the dead-lock would be removed, and the opposing surges would again make

slow progress.

When the church on the corner of Washash avenue and Harrison street took fire it seemed as if no limit could be placed to the southward march of the monster. An immense throng was collected in the vicinity of Harrison street and Hubbard court, and word was passed among them that Laird Collier's church was about to be blown up. The intelligence spread with rapidity of lightning, and then ensued a terrible race for life. The masses fled precipitately up the avenue, helter-skelter, pell-mell. It was everyone for himself, and the devil take the hindmost. Little consideration was had to age or sex. Fortunately, however, no one was seriously injured in the fearful rush, and the people poured in disjointed masses towards the various side streets, many not deeming themselves safe until they had placed several blocks between themselves and the point from which the danger was expected to proceed.

And so the day wore on, the living kaleidoscope making constant changes, but ever presenting the same aspect. Excitement, sorrow, grief, terror, panic, madness, colored everything, relieved simply by a few touches of ludicrousness that were absolutely grotesque in their relation to the all pervading horror.

ESCAPE OF PEOPLE INTO THE WEST DIVISION.

So soon as the people west of Clark street began to see that there was no hope, and that the fire was really bound to go northward to an indefinite point, they turned all their minds to getting over in the West division, where there was comparative safety from the flames and plenty of vacant ground on which to encamp. So, since Chicago avenue bridge was useless, the whole tide turned toward Division, which, from Grove to Halsted, was untouched, and promised to remain so. It was not many minutes before a steady stream of carriages, drays, express wagons and vehicles of every description were rushing pell-mell across that bridge, interlocking and breaking, while the southern streets leading up to Division were jammed with wagons, which occasionally caught fire. The expressmen and draymen, stimulated by the immense prices they were receiving—twenty to fifty dollars a load—drove their heavy teams recklessly forward, breaking down the weaker teams and forcing their way across the river, in order to return as soon as possible for another load. Sometimes they themselves came to grief, and then, unfastening their horses, tried to find another wagon.

THE ROADS WERE FILLED WITH PEOPLE crazed by excitement and liquor, or stupefied with smoke, and no regard at all was paid to them by the drivers, so that at all those points numerous accidents were constantly occurring. One man was driving up Clark street with a heavy load, when he fell from his seat.

AND INSTANTLY BROKE HIS NECK.

The team was loaded with trunks marked "Barton Edsall." Mrs. Edsall was taken from her house in a half insensible condition quite early in the morning.

THE WANDERERS crossing Division street either scattered

themselves north or went straight west, while many encamped themselves upon Grove Island, which lies between the North branch and Ogden canal. When the trains moved a little west they found their way blocked by the cars of the Northwestern road, which had been run up there to avoid the fire, and people were compelled to make long detours to get through them. Many unable to force their way through the confusion of Division street, which was almost equal to that at the crossing of the Berensina, turned into the side streets, and made their way to North Avenue bridge, where they were able to get out without great difficulty, though much hampered by the railroad trains after they got across there; not only teams, but foot passengers, carrying in their arms children and some little articles of furniture or wearing apparel, wended their weary way in the same direction. One woman had nothing but a silk sack, and another was accompanied by a child, who had in its arms a couple of cats and a little dog, and crying itself, sobbed out, "Don't cry, mammy." After getting out upon the prairie, they settled down wherever they could find room, some sitting in rocking chairs, and others upon blankets on the ground. None of them said anything, but all sat looking intently at the fire, which was immediately before them. Many who had teams went as far west as the Artesian well, where they encamped around the large pond, which supplied them with water. There they remained in the most forlorn and uncomfortable condition, which was aggravated by the rain, which began falling at 11 o'clock on Monday night, and which caused a change from the warm and comfortable temperature of the day to the piercing chilliness of yesterday morning.

LATE ON MONDAY EVENING

Chicago avenue bridge caught fire and soon fell into the river. It was even then almost impossible to get over at Division street on account of the teams which were even then crossing. Everywhere the wildest confusion was prevailing. Families were separated and the members were vainly seeking for one another. One policeman picked up a three months' old child which had been lost in some way. Since there was no use in facing the flames, the engines arranged themselves along the west bank of the north branch, and did the best they could all Monday in playing on the east and west sides.

The fire went further and further north, taking both sides of North avenue, and continuing beyond that.

TILL IT REACHED WRIGHT'S GROVE, and Ogden's grove, where it did not progress so easily amid the wet timber. The rain which began falling on Monday evening dampened the grass, and sensibly retarded it. Then it worked back again and got hold of the coal heaps and lumberyards laying south of Chicago avenue, and made a clean sweep of all that was left there. So brilliant was the light on Monday evening that it was feared by some of those on the west side that it would cross over there and obliterate what was left of the city.

A FRIGHTFUL SCENE

While Madison street, west of Dearborn,

and the west side of Dearborn were all ablaze, the spectators saw the lurid light appear in the rear windows of Speed's block. Presently a man, who had apparently taken time to dress himself leisurely, appeared on the extension built up to the second story of two of the stores. He coolly looked down the thirty feet between him and the ground, while the excited crowd first cried jump; and then some of them more considerably looked for a ladder. A long plank was soon found and answered the same as the ladder, and was placed at once against the building, down which the man soon after slid.

But while these preparations were going on there suddenly appeared another man at a fourth story window of the building below, which had no projection, but flung from the top to the ground—four stories and a basement. His escape by the stairway was apparently out of and he looked despairingly down the fifty feet between him and the ground. The crowd grew almost frantic at the sight, for it was only a choice of death before him. Senseless cries of "Jump! jump!" went up from the crowd—senseless, but full of sympathy, for the sight was absolutely agonizing. Then, for a minute or two he disappeared, perhaps even less, but it seemed so long a time the supposition was that he had fallen, suffocated with smoke and heat. But no, he appears again. First, he throws a bed, then some bed clothes, apparently; why, probably even he does not know. Again he looks down the dead, sheer wall of fifty feet below him. He hesitates, and well he may, as he looks behind him. Then he mounts to the window sill. His whole form appears, naked to the shirt, and his white limbs gleam against the dark wall in the bright light as he swings himself below the window.

Somehow—how none can tell—he drops and catches upon the top of the windows below him, of the third story. He stoops and drops again, and seizes the frame with his hands, and his gleaming body once more straightens and hangs prone downward, and then drops instantly and accurately upon the window sill of the third story. A shout, more of joy than applause, goes up from the breathless crowd, and those who had turned away their heads, not bearing to look upon him as he seemed about to drop to sudden and to certain death, glanced up at him once more, with a ray of hope, at this daring and skillful feat. Into this window he crept to look, probably, for a stairway, but appeared again presently, for here was the only avenue of escape, desperate and hopeless as it was. Once more he dropped his body, hanging by his hand.

The crowd screamed, and waved for him to swing himself over the projection from which the other man had just been rescued. He tried to do this, and vibrated like a pendulum from side to side, but could not reach far enough to throw himself upon its roof. Then he hung by one hand, and looked down; raising the other hand, he took a fresh hold, and swung from side to side again to reach the roof. In vain. Again he hung motionless by one hand, and slowly turned his head over his shoulder and gazed into the abyss below

him. Then, gathering himself up, he let go his hold, and for a second a gleam of white shot down full forty feet, to the foundation of the basement. Of course it killed him. He was taken to a drug store near by, and died in ten minutes.

List of all the Illinois Companies Doing Business in Chicago.

[From the Spectator.]

Company.	Cash Capital.	Assets.
Alt Mut & Sav, Alton	\$150,000	\$159,724 98
American, Chicago..	150,000	274,790 32
Aurora Fire, Aurora	200,000	220,478 58
Bloomington Fire, Bloomington.....	200,000	193,152 11
Chicago Fire, Chicago	101,800	131,555 75
Chi Firemen's, Chic'o	200,000	373,544 48
Commercial, Chicago	160,000	265,555 45
Equitable, Chicago..	100,000	121,491 17
Farmers' Freeport....	100,000	115,298 12
German Ins and Sav, Quincy.....	132,000	158,951 37
German, Freeport...	101,000	119,854 39
Garden City, Chicago	180,000	181,488 93
Germania, Chicago...	200,000	257,820 64
Great West, Chicago	222,831	271,895 86
Home, Chicago.....	200,000	245,333 17
Illinois Mutual Fire, Alton.....	113,000	227,301 42
Illinois, Beardstown	100,000	161,912 22
Knickerbocker, Chi..	194,000	204,128 78
Lamar, Chicago.....	255,555	292,956 56
Merchants', Chicago	500,000	878,252 25
Mut Security, Chicago	118,325	145,583 64
Rockford, Rockford..	100,000	161,442 54
Republic, Chicago...	998,200	1,132,812 43
State, Chicago.....	283,895	362,351 57
Winneshek, Freeport	100,000	148,732 18

Total.....\$5,161,507 \$6,746,393 91
COMPANIES OF OTHER STATES DOING BUSINESS IN CHICAGO.

Company.	Cash Capital.	Total Assets.
Atna, Hartford.....	\$3,000,000	\$3,789,635 09
Atna, Erie, Pa.....	250,000	265,524 33
Atna, N. Y.....	800,000	442,709 53
Anchor F. & M St. Louis	105,225	121,974 15
Andes, Cincinnati...	1,000,000	1,203,425 63
Astor Fire, N. Y.....	250,000	405,571 05
American Ex Fire, N. Y	200,000	277,349 98
Atlantic Fire, Brooklyn	300,000	548,194 33
American Cen. St. Louis	231,370	264,875 77
American, Providence.	200,000	374,969 06
Atlantic F. & M., Provid.	200,000	326,614 08
Albany City, Albany...	200,000	395,145 69
Allemania F., Cleveland	250,000	285,275 01
Buffalo City, Buffalo..	300,000	370,932 69
Beckman Fire, N. Y...	200,000	261,850 98
Buffalo F. & M., Buffalo.	304,222	473,577 39
Brewers' Pre., Milwau.	164,175	183,681 52
City Fire, Hartford....	250,000	548,287 37
Connecticut F., Hartford	400,000	405,068 79
Commerce, Albany.....	400,000	689,231 58
Charter Oak F., Hartford	150,000	252,050 62
Commerce F., N. Y.....	200,000	249,372 33
Continental, N. Y.....	500,000	2,538,037 75
Cleveland, Cleveland..	414,400	630,208 81
Capital City, Albany...	200,000	293,766 00
Commercial Mu., Cleve..	201,210	340,623 99
Citizens', N. Y.....	300,000	684,872 47
Detroit F. & M., Detroit	150,000	278,063 23
Enterprise, Phila.....	200,000	611,654 15
Excelsior Fire, N. Y...	200,000	335,723 85
Fulton Fire, N. Y.....	200,000	368,001 54
Franklin Fire, Phila...	400,000	3,086,452 35
Firemen's Fd. S. Fran...	500,000	799,626 67

German, Cleveland.....	200,000	281,260 00
German Fire, N. York..	500,005	1,077,848 90
Hibernia, Cleveland.....	200,000	200,000 00
Hartford Fire, Hartford	1,000,000	2,737,519 39
Home, New York.....	2,500,000	4,578,008 32
Hide and L'thr, Boston	300,000	419,211 04
Howard, New York.....	500,000	1,783,350 70
Hanover Fire, N. York..	400,000	700,334 64
Home, Columbus.....	500,000	638,447 35
Hope, Providence.....	150,000	211,873 12
International, N. York..	500,000	1,319,151 24
Irving Fire, N. York...	200,000	321,744 60
Independent, Boston...	300,000	643,547 92
Ins. Co. of N. A., Phila.	500,000	3,050,535 64
Lorillard Fire, N. York..	1,000,000	1,718,909 81
Lamar Fire, N. York...	300,000	551,401 90
Liverpool and London } and Globe, L'dn & Liv. }	3,004,361 24
Lycorning F., Muncy, Pa.	516,896 26
Market Fire, N. York...	200,000	704,684 29
Mercantile Fire, N. Y...	200,000	273,399 17
Manhattan, N. York...	500,000	1,407,788 39
Mer. & Me. F., Balti...	250,000	335,676 08
Merchants', Hartford...	200,000	540,095 80
N. Amsterdam F. N. Y.	300,000	432,638 35
N. American F., Hart...	300,000	458,503 31
N. E. Mu. Mar., Boston	200,000	1,081,456 50
Norwich F., Norwich...	300,000	378,718 34
N. Br. & Mer. Lond & Edin.	1,340,521 88
National.....Boston..	300,000	821,839 77
Niagara Fire New York	1,000,000	1,304,567 09
No'w't'n N'l. Milwa'kee.	150,000	191,201 84
N. A. Fire.....New York	500,000	770,304 95
Occidental S. Fr'n'co.	300,000	474,094 63
Phoenix.....Hartford.	600,000	1,788,921 98
Putnam Fire, Hartford...	400,000	770,782 97
Pacific.....S. Fr'n'co.	1,000,000	1,777,266 66
Pr'v. Wa'h'n. Pr'vide'ce.	200,000	415,143 51
Phoenix.....Brooklyn..	1,000,000	1,095,557 10
Peoples' F'r'o. Worcester.	400,000	887,956 28
Peoples'.....S. Fr'n'co.	200,000	323,113 18
R. Williams, Pr'vide'ce.	200,000	278,956 94
Rep'the Fire, New York	300,000	683,478 43
Security.....New York	1,000,000	1,880,333 08
Sp'rd'nd F&M, Springfield	500,000	935,400 94
Sun.....Cleveland..	248,000	301,340 40
St. R. F. & M. St. Paul..	200,000	280,593 06
Tent's Fire, Cleveland..	750,000	237,015 04
Union.....S. Fr'n'co.	300,000	1,115,873 67
Western.....Buffalo...	400,000	583,046 63
Washington, New York.	500,000	774,411 38
Yok's & NYF, New York.	869,933 03

Total.....\$34,818,602 \$73,063,586 22

Approximate Losses of the Various Companies.

[From the Chicago Evening Journal, 13th.]

Below is a list of the reported losses of the various insurance companies. Yesterday a number of Eastern insurance agents arrived in the city, and in the afternoon a meeting of adjusters and agents and others interested, was held at No. 67 Canal street. The meeting was called to order by appointing R. J. Smith, of the Putnam, Hartford, chairman, and Alfred Wrightway secretary. On motion of Mr. Moore, it was ordered that a committee be appointed to prepare a plan of action to be submitted at a future meeting. The chair appointed Messrs. Moore, Case, Ducat, Lewis and Clarke the committee. It was ordered, also, that a room be obtained for

headquarters for future meetings. The meeting then adjourned.

During the meeting the approximate losses of the various companies were reported as follows:

Hartford, of Hartford.....	\$1,800,000
Insurance company of North America, of Philadelphia.....	700,000
American Central, of St. Louis....	275,000
Franklin, of Philadelphia.....	600,000
Underwriter's agency, of N. Y....	700,000
Phoenix, of Hartford.....	720,000
Howard, of New York.....	200,000
Tradesmen's, of New York.....	15,000
International, of New York.....	500,000
Phoenix, of Brooklyn.....	700,000
Narragansett, of Providence.....	30,000
North British and Mercantile.....	2,700,000
Pacific, of San Francisco.....	1,600,000
Impetial, of London.....	400,000
Royal, of Liverpool.....	133,000
Washington, of New York.....	400,000
Commerce, of Albany.....	400,000
Continental, New York.....	1,500,000
Lorillard, of New York.....	1,300,000
Home, of Columbus.....	400,000
Mercantile, of New York.....	100,000
Commercial Mutual, of Cleveland Union, of San Francisco.....	300,000
Firemen's Fund of San Francisco.....	800,000
Astor, of New York.....	400,000
Citizens' of New York.....	300,000
Spillfield, of Massachusetts.....	50,000
Liverpool, London & Globe.....	700,000
Security, of New York.....	1,500,000
Merchants', of Hartford.....	700,000
Connecticut, of Hartford.....	600,000
Irving, of New York.....	500,000
Atlas, of New York.....	400,000
Sun, of Cleveland.....	200,000
Hope, of Providence.....	300,000
Roger Williams, of Providence....	300,000
Empire City, of New York.....	250,000
New Amsterdam, of New York....	350,000
Fulton, of New York.....	700,000
North American, of New York.....	800,000
Independent, of Boston.....	1,000,000
Excelsior, of New York.....	500,000
Northwestern, of Milwaukee.....	175,000
Brewers', of Milwaukee.....	100,000
Atlantic, of Brooklyn.....	500,000
Manhattan, of New York.....	1,600,000
Home, of New York.....	4,000,000
Atlas, of Hartford.....	5,000,000
Potomac, of Hartford.....	900,000
Charter Oak, of Hartford.....	600,000
Andes, of Cincinnati.....	1,500,000
Lamar, of New York.....	1,000,000
Beekman, of New York.....	300,000
People's, of San Francisco.....	400,000
Hide and Leather, of Boston.....	700,000
Yonkers, of New York.....	750,000
North American, of Hartford.....	500,000
Enterprise, of Philadelphia.....	600,000
Norwich, of Connecticut.....	100,000
Trentonia, of Cleveland.....	250,000
Cleveland, of Cleveland.....	700,000
City Fire, of Hartford.....	900,000
Alps, of Erie, Pa.....	250,000
Lycorning, of Pa.....	1,000,000
Buffalo City.....	450,000
Allemanis, of Cleveland.....	250,000
Hibernia, of Cleveland.....	200,000
German, of Cleveland.....	300,000
National, of Boston.....	500,000
Firemen's Fund, of California.....	400,000
Western, of Buffalo.....	500,000
Buffalo Fire and Marine.....	400,000

THE GREAT FIRES OF HISTORY.

Among the great fires of modern history, the mind naturally reverts to the conflagration in London in 1666 as the most destructive. Relatively, such it was for it continued four days and nights, and consumed nearly five-sixths of the city within its wall. Yet, although more than thirteen thousand houses of the description then common in the thickly settled portions of the city were destroyed, the area laid waste was only four hundred and thirty-six acres, or less than a square mile, while the aggregate loss did not exceed sixty millions of dollars. The city of Moscow, several times before grievously afflicted by fires, was made almost a smoking waste upon its occupation by the French in 1812, when, by order of the Russian governor, Rostopchin, it was set on fire in five hundred places at once, and 11,840 houses burnt to the ground, besides palaces and churches. Hamburg, in Germany, was visited by a fire on the 5th of May, 1842, which continued four days, and destroyed one-third of the city. In the United States, the most memorable conflagration prior to that which has just devastated Chicago, was the great fire in New York in 1835, which extended from east of Broadway and south or below Wall street, destroying 648 stores, the Merchants' exchange and the South Dutch church. Loss estimated at \$20,000,000. Other great fires occurred in Charleston, South Carolina, April 27, 1838, when 1158 buildings, covering 145 acres, were burned; in New York, again, September 6, 1839, loss \$10,000,000; in Pittsburgh, April 10, 1845, 1000 buildings, loss \$6,000,000; in Quebec, May 28, 1845, 1500 buildings, and in June of the same year, 1300 building; in New York, July 19, 1845, 302 stores and dwellings, loss \$6,000,000; in Albany, September 9, 1848, 24 acres burnt over and 300 buildings destroyed, loss \$3,000,000; in St. Louis, July 9, 1849, 350 buildings, loss \$3,000,000; in San Francisco, May 3, 1851, 2500 buildings, loss \$3,500,000, and again June 22, 1851, 500 buildings, loss \$3,000,000; and at Portland, Me., July 4, 1866, when 10,000 people were rendered homeless, and fifteen millions of property destroyed.

HORRIBLE SCENES.

[From the N. Y. Tribune, Oct. 14.]

The lamentable tragedy at the Historical Society building is the darkest episode of this day; the people in the edifice confident of its strength gathered their most valued possessions and crowded the cellars in assurance of perfect safety. Among them were citizens of note, the venerable Col. Stone and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Able and two daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter, Dr. Lead and family, with several others not so well known. While the frightened group were moving a trunk, the librarian caught sight of a flame, and, shouting to the rest, rushed from the fatal place. The others, at least twenty in number, were not seen to emerge, and there is no doubt that they perished, as the building was soon tottering in utter wreck. The original copy of the Lincoln Emancipation proclamation perished among the most cherished memorials of this society.

Death came to the crowds in the open air as well as in the buildings. A great following of ruffians, emboldened by the absence of the police and half maddened with liquor, assaulted several saloons on the verge of the fire and held the ground against the advancing flame. When the moment of need came they were too drunk to get away. In this portion the fire came on with such incredible rapidity that mothers threw their children down from the windows and then flung themselves. Throughout the day and night every foot of advance was a complete surprise. In Chicago avenue, a noble thoroughfare one hundred feet wide, the people were confident of escape, and took little or no precaution. Here, as on Wabash avenue, when the fire did come, panic aided the devastation. Thoughtless women piled mattresses and fragile goods in the street, and the dropping sparks took but an instant to make the avenue a glowing pathway of fire. The side streets were built wholly of wood, and the thin walls burned like shavings. This region, over by the lake and the great Lincoln park, seemed to offer safety. So a great rush was made for the park, and the refugees made themselves comfortable in the delusion of security. After ravaging to the limits of the city, with the wind dead against it, the fire caught the dried grasses, ran along the fences, and in a moment covered in a burning glory the Catholic cemetery and the grassy stretch of the great park. The marbles over the graves cracked and baked, and fell in glowing embers on the hot turf. Flames shot up from the resting places of the dead, and the living fugitives, screaming with horror, made, for a moment, the ghastliest spectacle that ever fell upon living eyes. The receiving vault, solidly built and shrouded in foliage, fell under the terrific flame, and the dead burst from their coffins as the fire tore through the walls of the frightful charnel house. In the broad light of day the place is the most ghastly I ever saw, not even Cold Harbor exceeding it in awful suggestiveness. Above the graves charred stones stand grim sentinels of the

dead, no more memorials of anything but disaster. Every inscription has disappeared, and even the dead are robbed by the flames. The park turned into a wilderness of fire, the crowds doubled backward and made for the avenues leading westward and to the south, to reach which they must cross the river. Many of the bridges were in flames; the rest were already choked with the heavy wagons which, tearing their way through, cruelly aggravated the distress of the thousands of foot-sore women and weary men. Fully 30,000 people were afoot in this quarter, and this mass densely wedged into barricaded streets, between trampling horses, kept up a ceaseless stream far into the night. With the night, new volumes of flame shot out on the air, and new crowds were hurled among the flying masses. There was no hope of saving the city, the struggle was simply for life. Half-clad women fled moaning through the streets, and at this time, it is asserted, robberies were perpetrated in some of the remote private residences. A vast throng reached the prairie, and sunk exhausted on the ground; the air was filled with a torrid heat and even at this great distance immense particles of cinders fell in showers. The dreadful agony of separated families came to add its horrors to the calamity. Babies were found alone in the multitude, and countless little people crept about crying wildly for their parents. A blessed rain came down slowly, and the fire, stayed in its advance, rolled backward and flamed up with greater fierceness in the immense coal piles in the very center of the town. Then a new agony came upon the people. The only untouched portion of the town was brilliantly illuminated, and for a time it seemed as though not a roof was to be left in the great city.

CONDITION OF THE CHICAGO BANKS.

The following statement is made up from the latest returns received at the office of the controller of the currency. The outstanding circulation is secured by United States bonds, deposited by the banks with the treasurer of the United States. Deducting from the liabilities the capital and accumulated profits which the banks owe to their own stockholders, it will be seen that the assets are more than \$10,000,000 greater than the remaining liabilities.

The following are the assets and liabilities of the national banks in Chicago, June 10, 1871:

ASSETS.	
Bills receivable.....	\$19,556,735
United States and other bonds and stocks.....	6,716,637
Due from other banks.....	5,394,290
Real and personal property.....	729,323
Expenses to be paid.....	462,635
Checks and cash items.....	1,810,091
Money.....	6,480,462
Total.....	\$41,178,177
LIABILITIES.	
Capital.....	\$6,950,000
Accumulated profits.....	3,323,727
Circulation outstanding.....	5,311,289
Deposits.....	10,259,349

Due to banks.....	9,089,699
Bills payable.....	244,112

Total.....\$41,178,177

Number of banks, sixteen.

In response to the call of the controller for reports from the banks, showing their condition on the 21 inst., but five Chicago banks have forwarded their official statements. These came to-day, and possibly more may be received to-morrow. After that date it is not expected at the department that any further deposits will be received. Partial returns will, however, be promulgated by the controller's office, together with the usual promulgation of National bank reports.

THE FUTURE OF CHICAGO.

What will be the future of Chicago? This question is on the lips of everybody. Strangers ask it of Chicagoans, and Chicagoans of strangers. Here is a city of three hundred thousand inhabitants that has suddenly lost several hundred millions of dollars and two-thirds of its facilities for living and transacting business. The country at large has subscribed enough in provisions and money to bridge over the first period of physical suffering. The insurance companies and banks will pay something, but not more than a twentieth of what would repay the losses. The immense agricultural region tributary to Chicago is unharmed, and productive as ever. Chicago has bought its grain and supplied its demand for merchandise. The profits on this work for thirty years has been swept away. It was these profits that built up Chicago, and if it is rebuilt a similar accretion, year by year, must again be the agency. The capital can not come from any other source. The tension of credit at Chicago has always been extreme. The city is largely in debt and so are its citizens. The appeal for a heavy loan from government, without collateral, is absurd. It is commerce that builds large cities, and no subsidies can keep them afloat. Much of Chicago's business must be, at least, temporarily diverted to her rivals. But whatever the conditions, she must start afresh and by her own energy regain her position, make good her losses, and be content to know that this will be a task for many years. There is no magic to accomplish it in a twelve-month.

Another ugly fact must be faced in Chicago. Cities built of wood must be destroyed by fire. All over the globe this law has no exception. Therefore, Chicago must tear down as well as build up. Until she uses brick, stone and iron in her edifices capital will be afraid of her, and her history will be replete with disaster. Where the prevailing winds are so boisterous there is a double need of solid buildings, and a splendid fire department. The wise and thoughtful will be more anxious to know how this city will be re-created than at what rapidity.

The winter, with its snows and rigors, is near at hand, and after the tremendous excitement of the fire must come the reaction of facing the realities of a plodding,

every day existence. Everything here must come down at once to a basis of utility. Embellishment must be secondary to use. The butterflies of the city will take flight, and the totally impoverished will be tempted to seek other scenes. The classes who have still some property left will strive to render it valuable again, and to them we must look to rebuild Chicago, aided by such energetic strangers as may seek their fortunes here, replacing the bankrupt and disheartened. Time alone can determine the extent to which Chicago in ashes can hold its customers and keep them contented. For a year, at least, the charitable of other cities must be ready to contribute to the destitute of Chicago, and an organization should be perfected here which could be officially recognized, and whose requests for aid would be cheerfully accepted as right and proper.

REMARKABLE ESCAPE—A ROOF CROWDED WITH WOMEN FALLING IN.

[From the New York Sun, October 14th.]

Mr. and Mrs. William Spiring, an English couple, who have just arrived from Chicago, homeless and friendless, told their story thus:

We left Salt Lake last week, and started for London, our former home. We have been living in Salt Lake nine years. We stopped to spend Sunday at Chicago. In the fire of Sunday night we were driven from our hotel with scarcely any clothing, barely getting out of the building, losing our trunks, clothing, and \$500 in money, all we had. We wandered about the city all day Monday in the rain in search of food. We obtained from some charitable people sufficient clothing to keep us from exposure. The suffering was intense, as neither food nor water could be provided until Tuesday for the homeless people. After that they were provided for by the authorities. On Tuesday the mayor issued a proclamation announcing he would issue passes over any road to all who wished to leave the city. We availed ourselves of this opportunity and went to Pittsburgh, whence the Pennsylvania Central passed us to New York, where we arrived this morning. They directed us at the mayor's office to come out here.

There was a sad scene at the office of the mayor of Chicago, the morning following the issue of his proclamation. Before 6 o'clock in the morning a large crowd had gathered in the street, and formed in line, awaiting the arrival of the mayor to get their passes out of the city of DESOLATED HOMES AND WRECKED FORTUNES.

Before the mayor arrived (10 o'clock) the line filed several streets. From this time until 6 P. M. passes were issued as fast as they could be written. At 6 the delivery of passes ceased, leaving thousands of half-naked and starved men, women and children, covered with ashes and black with smoke, to seek a night's lodging beneath the sky. Churches, school houses and dwellings were thrown open for the

shelter of the suffering. Still thousands were compelled to camp upon the prairie, with darkness for a covering and the earth for a bed. Many died from hunger, thirst and exposure.

Expressmen, hackmen and drivers of every conceivable vehicle, goaded their horses through the throngs of men, women and children, trampling them down in their mad haste to deposit their loads and return for more plunder. An expressman made this reply to a son and daughter who had carried their sick father in their arms from a third story to the street, and who offered this expressman \$15 to carry him a few blocks out of danger:

"Don't talk about \$15 to me. Say \$1000 and I will talk to you."

They had no more money, and tried to carry their father, who urged them to abandon him and save themselves; but they would not, and were

OVERTAKEN BY THE FLAMES AND PERISHED. The horrors as well as the extent of the fire were no doubt aggravated by incendiarianism and pillage. The police had to distribute arms among the citizens to protect their property. Two men who stood guarding their goods were stabbed by ruffians. One died. The murderer was caught and hanged to a post. Many were hanged and shot. A man was discovered with a bundle of straw and a kerosene can in his arms in the rear of some buildings. He was shot down. On an inbound train, while the fire was raging, a fellow said he was glad of it, and hoped that the whole city would burn. The passengers became so exasperated that they attacked the man, and the conductor put him off the train. All the prisoners in the armory were released before the fire reached the building, but we did not hear whether those under the courthouse and in the north side station were released, but we presume they were, or we should have heard it mentioned. We saw twenty-five or thirty servant girls rush to the roof of one of the large hotels to leap into the streets below, but the whole roof fell in and

THEY WERE ENGULFED.

The fire crossed the river by large embers and burning boards several feet square, which were borne across by the wind. Never did a fire burn so rapidly. The flames rolled two hundred feet into the air. Curling back, they would dart across the street, and in an instant another block would be in flames. Imagine the unburned streets at night filled with furniture, men, women, children and teams, lit only by the lurid glare of the pursuing flames. No sounds but groans and cries, mingled with the oaths of drivers and the roar of the sea of fire, whose hungry waves were licking them up.

THE GREAT RELIEF MOVEMENT.

Never before in the history of any great public calamity was there exhibited such

a large-hearted, spontaneous effort to relieve the distress of those who suffered.

London has subscribed, through its common council, \$5000, and private individuals \$35,000 more.

The great bankers of London gave \$5000 each, amounting to \$35 000 in all.

Liverpool has given \$20,000, the American chamber of commerce contributing \$15,000 of this.

At Berlin, Frankfort-on-the-Main and Paris, subscriptions are going on. Altogether, the contributions from abroad will amount to over one million of dollars.

New York has given over two millions, of which Alex. T. Stewart gives \$50,000, Robert Bonner \$10,000, and the leading bankers, \$5000 each.

Boston contributions amount already to \$300,000 in cash, with the prospect of more.

Cincinnati has contributed \$200,000, exclusive of clothing and supplies.

St. Louis merchants have given \$140 000 in cash, besides \$60,000 in supplies.

The Pittsburgh common council appropriated \$100,000, beside forwarding large amounts from its citizens.

Philadelphia will give about \$200,000; Baltimore, \$100,000, New Orleans, \$50,000; Memphis, \$25,000, and all the smaller towns in proportion.

Up to Saturday, the 14th, there had been contributed by the various cities and towns of the United States, an aggregate of \$3,660 820, which has doubtless been swelled by this time to upwards of \$1 000,000. Adding the foreign subscriptions the total will not fall short of seven or eight millions of dollars in cash, beside the value of a million in food, clothing, &c.

From all over the country the relief afforded has been prompt, and spontaneous. Committees of distinguished citizens are now in Chicago from St. Louis, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh, personally superintending the disbursements of their bounties. Nothing has ever occurred in this country to call out such generous and profound sympathy with genuine distress, which, deplete the occasion as much as we may, cannot but fill the heart of every true American with pride.

548
112
5745
1877
RARE

